

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, PORG, ILO

SUBJ: US MEMBERSHIP IN ILO

REF: ABU DHABI 1582

1. DURING AUGUST 8 MEETING WITH FONMIN SUWAIDI PRIOR MY DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, OPPORTUNITY AROSE FOR ME TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY USG OVER RESULTS OF JUNE 1977 INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE. I SAID WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED PRIOR TO THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE TO THINK THAT THERE WAS GROWING APPRECIATION BY OTHER ILO MEMBERS OF VALIDITY OF USG VIEW THAT INTRODUCTION OF POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED ISSUES INTO ILO CONTEXT WAS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO WORK OF THAT ORGANIZATION. SINCE JUNE, HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO BE DISTURBED BY TENDENCY FOR MAJORITY TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH FRUSTRATE PURPOSES OF ILO. ESPECIALLY WE ARE CONCERNED BY REJECTION BY ARABS AND OTHERS OF USE OF EXISTING ILO INVESTIGATIVE MACHINERY TO DETERMINE IF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF ILO CONVENTIONS HAVE ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

2. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT UAEG SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY
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SENSITIVE TO SUCH ABUSES OF ILO PROCEDURES. HOW WOULD UAE FEEL IF THERE WERE VOTE IN ILO CONDEMNING TREATMENT HERE OF PAKISTANI OR INDIAN IMMIGRANT LABORERS WITH THOSE MAKING ACCUSATIONS REFUSING TO FOLLOW ESTABLISHED ILO INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES TO FIRST ASCERTAIN FACTS? TO SAY THAT USG HAS TAKEN POSITION OPPOSING POLITICALLY-INSPIRED RESOLUTIONS SOLELY TO

PROTECT ISRAEL WAS MISSING THE REAL POINT. POINT IS THAT PRECEDENT IS BEING SET WHEREBY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MAY BECOME UNPOPULAR WITH NUMBER OF ILO MEMBERS COULD FIND THEMSELVES SUBJECTED TO HARRASSMENT WITHIN ILO FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES TOTALLY UNREALATED TO OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH ILO WAS ESTABLISHED.

3. I THEN POINTED OUT THAT US ADMINISTRATION IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE DOMESTICALLY, PARTICULARLY FROM AFL/CIO, TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO. EVEN US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH REPRESENTS AMERICAN EMPLOYERS HAS VOTED TO RECOMMEND US WITHDRAWAL. US ADMINISTRATION IS RELUCTANT TO END LONG-STANDING US MEMBERSHIP IN AND SUPPORT FOR ILO AND ITS ACTIVITIES BUT CONTINUING PERVERSION OF ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR NARROW POLITCAL ENDS OF SOME MEMBERS GIVES US NO AMMUNITION TO REFUTE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE PRESSING FOR EARLY US WITHDRAWAL.

4. SUSAIID EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MY APPROACH AND ASKED THAT I PROVIDE HIM WITH MEMORANDUM SUMMARIZING RESULTS OF JUNE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE AND BRIEF RE-STATEMENT OF WHAT ISSUES ARE THAT OBLIGE USG GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO IMPLEMENTING ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW NOTIFIED TO ILO DIRGEN IN NOVEMBER 1975.

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5. COMMENT: I DO NOT KNOW IF UAE IS WILLING TO SHIFT ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE USE OF ILO CONFERENCES AS FORUM FOR ANTI-ISRAEL ACTIONS. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT DESIREABLE THAT WE FOLLOW UP MY CONVERSATION WITH SUWAIDI ASAP BY SUPPLYING HIM WITH MEMO HE REQUESTED. UAEG OFFICIALS HAD PRIOR TO JUNE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE INDICATED TO US THEIR INTENTION TO SIDE WITH OTHER MODERATES IN ARAB CAUCUS (REFTEL). WHILE LATTER OBVIOUSLY UNWILLING TO OPPOSE RADICALS ON POLITICALLY-RELATED ISSUES AT JUNE CONFERENCE THEY NEED TO BE REMINDED OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO ILO AND TO ITS MEMBERS' OVERALL INTERESTS OF CONTINUING POLITICALLY-INSPIRED NEGLECT OF OR INTERFERENCE WITH ESTABLISHED ILO PROCEDURES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: POST PROPOSES TO DRAW UPON STATE 144697, 169505, AND 139602 TO FASHION BRIEF NOTE TO SUWAIDI REGARDING FAILURE OF ILC TO ACCEPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS OR RECOMMENDATION OF SELECTIONS COMMITTEE RE SOC DISCUSSIONS OF GB PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE 17. HOWEVER, WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL POINTS INCLUDING SPECIFIC

LANGUAGE WHICH DEPARTMENT FEELS SHOULD BE INCLUDED
IN OUR PROPOSED MEMO. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC SUG-
GESTIONS OR ACTIONS WHICH UAE OR OTHER MODERATE
ARAB STATES MIGHT TAKE AT THIS TIME TO DEMONSTRATE
THAT THEY TOO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT AND WISH PREVENT
FURTHER EROSION OF DUE PROCESS WITHIN ILO? STRONGLY
URGE, HOWEVER, THAT WE DO ALL POSSIBLE TO KEEP
LANGUAGE OF OUR PROPOSED MEMO AS BRIEF AND SIMPLE
AS POSSIBLE, AVOIDING COMPLEX OR VERY TECHNICAL
ARGUMENTS, IF WE WISH VERY BUSY UAE FONMIN TO READ
AND ABSORB KEY POINTS WE WISH TO MAKE.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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